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American Munismalist

**+AN ILLUSTRATED+8-

Monthly Magazine for Coin Collectors.

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CHARLES E. LEAL & Co., PUBLISHERS. PATERSON, N. J.





VOL 1. No. 6.

The American Numismatist.

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIST is one of the finest coin journals extant.—Philatelic Tribune.

It is a fine magazine and I wish you unbounded success.—S. H. Doolittle, Pasadena, Cal.

There is not a dull line in it. It is an interesting magazine for anybody whether a coin collector or not.—A. M. Gould & Son, Chicago, Ill.

It is a first-rate magazine and merits a large circulation.—C. T. Whitman, Albany, N. Y.

I think more of it every time I see it.— F. C. Sawyer, Beauclerc, Fla. Coin collectors will find a desirable journal in The American Numismatist, Paterson, N. J.—Western Philatelist.

It is needless to say that I am much pleased with it.—C. S. Mason, Easton, Pa.

The best coin journal published, as far as I have examined.—A. J. Croman, Quakertown, Pa.

Am much pleased with THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIST and hope that it may be a regular monthly visitor to me for a long time to come.—M. A. MacDonald, Eldon, P. E. I., Canada.

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THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIST

Published Monthly in the Interest of Coin Collectors.

VOL. I.

PATERSON, N. J., MARCH, 1887.

No. 6.

THE REDEMPTION OF THE TRA E DOLLARS.

Since Congress passed the bill authorizing the redemption of the trade dollars, the professional examiners and counters in the Sub-Treasuries at New York and Sau Francisco have been kept busy receiving the large sums forwarded from all parts of the country. As the dollars can only be redeemed in these two cities, and as each piece has to be carefully serutinized to see that it is neither defaced, mutilated, nor stamped, it will probably be five or six months before the work is completed.

It is the common belief that at the time the value of trade dollars fell to eighty-eight cents, large quantities were bought by bullion brokers speculating on a possible raise. If anyone had bought the coins in 1883, at their lowest price, and held them until the passage of the redemption aet, he would really have lost money, as the profit on the four years investment would only be twelve cents. A larger profit than this could have been obtained by investing in Governent bonds.

The Treasury Department has issued the following statement to holders of trade dollars:—

TREASURY OF THE UNITED STATES, & WASHINGTON, MARCH 7, 1887.

Owing to the present inadequate provision for the reception and storage of trade dollars, the redemption of which is provided for under the act of Congress passed Feb. 20, 1887, the following regulations will be observed, in order, so far as practicable, to comply with the terms of the law:

Trade dollars, if not defaced, mutilated, or stamped, will be redeemed or exchanged at the offices of the Treasurers of the United States. Requests for the redemption of these

coins stating the amount held should be forwarded to the above-named officers, who will file applications and notify holders in their turn when presentation may be made and payment obtained. The notification by the holders of trade dollars to the Treasurer or Sub-Treasurers of the United States of the amounts held by them respectively will be held to be a sufficient presentation of the coins within the meaning of the law, and will entitle the holders in the order of reception of such notifications to deposit such coins in the respective Sub-Treasuries when notified that such deposits can be received at those offices. Notifications must be filed with the Sub-Treasurers on or before Aug. 1, 1887. After notifying these officers, and upon receipt of notification from them, such coins may be forwarded by express or otherwise, transportation charges being prepaid, when receipts will be issued for the amounts purporting to be contained in the deposits on their reception. Upon the count and ascertainment of the amount of each deposit payment will be made therefor in standard silver dollars or in fractional silver coin at the option of the holder. Defaced, mutilated, or stamped trade dollars found in deposits will not be redeemed or exchanged by any of the Snb-Treasury officers, but they will be returned to the depositor or purchased as bullion in sums of \$3 or upward by the United States mints at the option of the depositor. C. N. JORDAN. TREASURER UNITED STATES.

Approved: C. S. Fairchild, Aeting Secretary of the Treasury.

Most of the dollars presented for redemption are held by banks for large business honses, and, as they were but a short time in circulation, are in very good condition. There is probably not more than one fourth of the original coinage of trade dollars still in this country; the remainder has been exported, principally to China.

MONEY AS AN INSTRUMENT OF EXCHANGE.

BY CHAS. S. MASON.

Very few persons, when purchasing a trifling article and paying for it in small coin, ever think what a convenience money is, or how long the country struggled to find something which should measure true value for all. Very primitive were the first attempts at exchange, and all countries, more or less, passed through many changes in their monetary systems, before arriving at that in use at the present day.

The earliest form of exchange must have eousisted in giving what was not wanted for that which was wanted. This simple traffic we call barter or track.

By trading in this way, eivilized nations come in contact with the uncivilized, very often to the detriment of the latter, viz: supplying them with firewater. In consequeuee of this way of exchanging, a company was formed in London, under the name of the African Barter Co., Lim., whose object is very obvious. Their business was to exchange European manufactured goods for African raw products of Palm oil, gold dust, ivory, cotton and gum. In consequence of bartering in this way, many difficulties were encountered in fluding some one ready to take what was offered and to give what was wanted in return. Many navigators, explorers and travelers have wished to procure food from the savages whose country they were passing through, and, unless they had something which pleased the eye, as bright eolored beads, knives, pieces of colored cloth or those things particularly desired by the natives, would quite likely be disappointed. A successful hunter may want arms and amunition, and can give the products of the chase for these. If no one wants them they will deeay and their profit will be lost to him. Now if these people could dispose of their commodities for something universally desired, they could each get what was required by them. Another drawback to this method

of exchange is want of measure of value, that is, how much to give of one thing for what is wanted of something else. We could not give equal weights of all things, as some are many times more valuable than others. Thus we see that money must act in two ways, 1st as a standard of value, 2nd as a medium of exchange. Everyone must allow that the exchange of commodities depends upon the principle, that each of our wants taken separately requires a limited quantity of some article to produce satisfaction. However, we pine for variety. A man who has three pounds of meat and no bread sees another man with three pounds of bread and no meat. If mutually agreeable they will each exchange. Money may be defined as some useful product of labor which serves as a standard of value by which wealth of every kind is measured, and as an instrument by which one kind of wealth can be exchanged for another. To have a compact store of value, we must have money in a small space, in order that we may carry it long distances without becoming weary. While we might use precious stones, as diamonds, and other articles of beauty and rarity for concentrated wealth, still gold and silver seem best adapted for use as money.

Historically speaking, such a generally esteemed substance as gold seems to have served, firstly as a commodity valuable for ornamental purposes, secondly as stored wealth, thirdly as a medium of exchange, and lastly as a measure of value. There is evidently a convenience in selecting if possible, one single substance which can serve all the functions of money, and it will save trouble if we can pay in the same article in which the prices of things are calculated. Those living in civilized communities associate the idea of money with gold and silver. This is fallacious. In the early history of money, currency in the hunting state was composed of skins and furs. Thus we see in the early history of America, the Hudson Bay Co. carried on a traffic in furs. A gun worth 40s. brought 20 fnrs, beaver skins being worth 2s. and marten's 1s. The currency in the pastoral state was sheep and other kinds of eattle, these being the most valuable and negotiable kind of property. Besides, they were easily transferred. In the Homeric poems oxen are repeatedly mentioned as the commodity. The tripod, a prize given for wrestling, was worth twelve oxen; a woman captive skilled in industry five oxen.

Pecnnia, the Latin term for money was derived from pecus, cattle; and the figure of an ox was the first impression made on coins. As cattle were given for services rendered (Genesis xxx: 28 & 29.), being counted by the head, the kine were called capitale, whence the term capital, the law term chattel, and our common name cattle.

Articles of currency are sometimes used for ornaments, as the wampum of Indians, made from black and white shells. These were worn to adorn and beautify the person. The enrrency of the agricultural state was such as might be produced from the ground, as wheat, corn, oats, barley, tobacco, etc. In Norway, coru is even deposited in the banks. and is lent or borrowed. To such use is maize put in Central America and Mexico. The perishable nature of animals and food prevents them from being extensively used as money: yet, eggs in the Alpine villages of Switzerland and dried codfish in Newfoundland have been circulated as such. Pieces of cotton cloth called "guinea pieces" were used for traffic in Mexico, Pern, Liberia and Sumatra. In 1694, in the Portugese possessions of Angola, straw mats, called libouques, woven out of rice straw were eirculated. These mats must have had originally some purpose apart from their use as currency, and were perhaps analogous to the fine woven mats so much valued by the Samoans and also treated by them as a medium of exchange. Salt has been circulated in Sumatra, Mexico, and elsewhere; cubes of benzoin gum or beeswax in Sumatra, red feathers in the islands of the Pacific, cubes of tea in Tartary, iron shovels or hoes among the Malagasy, are other peculiar forms of enrency. The finely worked stone implements, now so frequently discovered, were among the earliest mediums of exchange. Some of them are made of jade, nephrite, or other hard stones, only found in distant countries, so that an active traffic must have existed in these implements in time of which we have no authentic record.

There are some obscure illusions in classic anthors to a wooden money circulating among the Byzantines, and to a wooden talent used in Antioch and Alexandria.

To decide upon the best material for making money is a great complexity, because we must take into account at once the relative importance of the several functions of money, the degree in which money is employed for each function, and the importance of each of the physical qualities of the substance. In a simple state of industry, money is chiefly required to pass about between buyers and sellers. It should then be conveniently portable and divisible into pieces of various size, so that any sum may be readily made up and easily distinguished by its appearance or by the design upon it. The properties of the material of which money is made are enumerated in their order: 1, Utility and value; 2, Portability; 3, Indestructibility; 4, Homogenity; 5, Divisibility; 6, Stability of value; 7, Cognizability. 1st. Now as money has to be exchanged for valuable goods, it should possess value, and it must therefore have utility as the basis of value, 2nd. The material of mon ey must not only be valuable, but the value must be so related to the weight and bulk of the material that the money shall not be inconveniently large on one hand or too minute on the other. During the last century, eopper was used almost exclusively as money in Sweden, and merchants had to take a wheelbarrow when they went to receive payment in copper Thalers. And not only is portability an important quality, that is enables the owner to earry small sums in the pocket without trouble; but, because large sums can be transferred from place to place or from continent to continent at a small cost.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

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AMERICAN NUMISMATIST.

EDITED BY C. E. LEAL.

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CHARLES E. LEAL & CO.,

149 Ellison Street,

Paterson, N. J.

Entered as Second-Class matter at the Paterson Post Office.

MARCH, 1887.

THE lateness of this issue is due entirely to the slowness of our former printer; after having the manuscript in his possession for two months he only managed to print about two-thirds of the magazine. The Publishers, rather than have affairs continue in this style, decided to lose the money already paid out, and to make arrangements for the completion of this number and the publication of future numbers with some larger and more responsible firm. In order to have the June number out at the appointed time, we find that it will be necessary to combine the April and May numbers, but as the company which is now doing our printing is amply provided for this class of work we believe that we will have no further trouble in this respect.

IF Secretaries of Numismatical societies will forward reports of their regular monthly meetings to us, we will be pleased to publish them free of charge, as we desire to make this one of the most important features of The American Numismatist hereafter. Also, if auction sale catalogues of coins, etc., are mailed us they will receive a short notice, and if a priced catalogue is mailed us after the sale we will quote some of the prices realized.

OLD coins are more enduring than marble and more accurate than ancient monuments; for they were struck by authority of the magistrates after mature deliberation, so that all things diligently laid out upon them were perspicuous and clear, that they should not contain anything obscure or doubtful. For all that they are sometimes esteemed less than ancient monuments. Two coins struck exactly alike rarely occur, and nothing was stamped upon them without a purpose.

It is the purpose of the Treasury Department to substitute paper currency for gold coin as the money of the Pacific coast. Gold is still the principal medium of exchange in the coast states, and it was the belief of Secretary Manning that every effort should be made to secure the circulation of paper money in its place, and a return of the gold to the Treasury. After July J, when the increased appropriations for legal tender notes and gold and silver certificates become available, the experiment will be tried.

The proceeds of the first three days' sales at the Hotel Dronot of the Roman and Byzantine coins of the Ponton d'Amecourt collections amounted to 163,786 francs. An exceedingly well preserved coin of the reign of Uranius Antonius, A. D. 222, was sold for 6,100 francs; a very rare coin of the reign of Pescennius Niger, A. D. 193, brought 4,100 francs, the gem of the collection, however, was a unique piece of money, the only gold coin known to have been handed down from the reign of Giordianus Africanus, the Elder, A. D. 238, which was sold for 6,720 francs.

NEWS AND NOTES.

The Grant relics, which have been guarded for several months in one of the private rooms of the National Museum, are now being placed on public exhibition. Two large cases filled with articles from the collection have been placed in the north hall of the museum, near the main entrance. They contained the medallious, presentation swords, and many other costly and elegant articles presented at different times to General Grant. Many of these articles are souvenirs of his trip around the world; among which may be mentioned a splendid collection of Japanese coins, one series of seven pieces old Japanese gold coins of huge size being valued at \$5 000. The curiosities exhibited, besides their historical interest, are of great intrinsical value.

The U. S. Steamer Galena has been ordered to proceed to Aspinwall, and await the arrival of the Mohican at Panama, which has on board the colossal statue and other archæological relics obtained at East-r Island. The Galena is to take charge of the valuable relics and bring them to Washington where they will be turned over to the Smithsonian Institution.

It is not generally known that John T. Raymond was a collector of coins. The dealers say his was a frequent face in their establishments. Mr. Lyman H. Low is now cataloguing Mr. Raymond's collection and will sell it at auction. The coins are nearly all American and principally dellars, halves, quarters, cents, half cents and various colonial issues. There are half eagles of 1803, 1805, 1806, 1810, 1813, and 1834, a spade guinea of 1794, and a Maximilian 20 pesos piece. Many of the

coins were pocket pieces, and regarded by him as personal friends. One in particular, a \$50 octagonal gold "slug," he carried much with him, and used as his lucky piece in his favorite diversion of "matching"

The guinea was first heard of in England during the Commonwealth, when in 1669 some correspondence took place between the Parliament and the Council of State concerning the coinage of gold brought by a vessel from "Guiny," but the name was not given to the coin until the Restoration. It was intended to circulate as a twenty-shilling piece, but from an error in calculating gold and silver values, it never circulated for that sum. Sir Isaac Newton fixed the value of the coin. in relation to silver, at twenty shillings and eight pence, and by his advice the government proclaimed its value at twenty-one shillings. A specimen of this coin is now rarely seen, it having run out or been withdrawn from circulation years ago. The term has, however, been kept up, and no one who pretends to gentility in England would think of subscribing to any charity or fashionable object by contributing the vulgar pound. An extra shilling added to the pound makes the gninea, and lifts the name of the subscriber at once into the aristocratic world.

An immense amount of treasure, estimated at \$25,000,000, which had been secreted in the palace of Gwalior by the Maharajah, has been discovered. It was buried beneath stones in pits filled to the brim with silver, chiefly freshly coined rupees. In each pit was a plate recording the amount of the treasure and the names of the officers who secreted it. The English Government in India has taken the hoard as a loan from the young Maharajah. The native papers protest against this, and the question will be raised in Parliament as to whether the taking of it as a loan be not another name for seizure.

TREASURE TROVE.

An ancient tomb has been lately discovered under a street in Forli, Italy, containing the skeleton of a warrior, a number of iron lance heads, and many vases and urns of pottery, some of which were filled with coins.

About the middle of this month while a man named Bayliss was ploughing on a farm three miles from Atlanta, Ga., he uncarthed a box of five-dollar gold pieces. On counting them he discovered that he had \$1,190. It is supposed that the coins were buried only a short time before the war.

A few days ago a considerable quantity of old English silver eoins were discovered at Denby by a lad named Arthur Hudson, aged 16 years, and farm labourer in the employ of Mr. James Slater. There were twenty-seven shillings and sixpences, of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, eleven shillings, seven sixpences, and a half-crown of the reign of Charles I.; and nine shillings of the reign of James I. There seems to have been also a few other coins. A few of the coins had been sold when the authorities heard of the discovery and the matter is now being inquired into with a view of the recovery of the whole of the coins. London (Eng.), Echo.

On the tenth of this month two men drove up to the residence of William Tubbs living a few miles from Fort Worth, Texas, and said they desired to see the man of the house, to whom they made the following disclosure:

In 1865, an Indian woman fearing that she would be plundered by Yankee raiders buried an iron vessel, containing \$1,000 in gold under a corner of the house now occupied by Mr. Tubbs. Upon moving away she decided it was safer to leave it where it was.

Upon her death-bed a short time ago she revealed the secret to the men just spoken of, and in return for kindness—shown her by these parties she bequeathed to them the buried treasure. With Mr. Tubbs's permis-

sion they adjourned to the house and commenced to dig at the spot indicated by the Indian woman. The iron pot was nnearthed. In the vessel a canvas bag was found containing between \$1,000, and \$1,200, in gold coin of various denominations. After the above facts had become generally known Captain Buwley, who lives near Mr. Tubbs's place said that a few days previous while ploughing in a field near his house he perceived a shining subtance sticking in the earth. Upon investigation it proved to be a twenty-dollar gold piece. He thought nothing strange of this. As he ploughed he found more gold pieces, and he was so aroused that he called his hired man from an adjoining field. By nightfall they had succeeded altogether in picking up two hundred and eighty-two twenty-dollar gold pieces, or \$5,640. In 1849, the Tonkawa Indians sold a part of their reservation for \$40,000, in gold to the Texas government. As the tribes were encamped for uine months about the place where Captain Buwley's farm is located, it is probable that they hid a part or all of this money where they then were. Buwley thinks more gold is hidden on his grounds, so has posted his farm, and warns all upon pain of death not to approach with a pick.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Notice to Publishers. — We desire to exchange with every paper in the world published in the interest of coin, stamp, or curiosity collectors. Please send two copies.

After an existence of one year the publication of the *Cumberland Collector* has been discontinued and its subscription 1st transferred to the *Stump* of Denver, Colo.

We have received the following publications:

Empire State Philatelist, Curiosity World, Philatelic Gazette, Western Philatelist, Cumberland Collector, Museum Bulletin, Germantown Philatelist, Useful Instructor, Youth & Ledger, Philatelic Journal of America, Philatelic Tribune, Keystone Philatelist, Mystic World International Advertiser, and Mohawk Standard.

Also the following catalogues and price-lists:
William H. Warner & Bro., F. O. Sawyer, Chas.
Enders & Co., William Leck'e & Co., F. C. Stedman,
and Stanley, Gibbons & Co.

AUCTION SALES.

Mr. Proskey's fifth sale, consisting of minerals, coins, stamps, etc., the property of Messrs. Haines and Hamlin, took place at the anction rooms of Bangs & Co., New York, on the 29th and 30th of March. As in the case of most unprotected sales the buyers obtained many bargains especially among the minerals. We append a few of the prices realized. A specimen of free gold, \$5.75; rock chrystal ball, 3 1-4 inches in diameter, \$45.00; a \$25.00 U.S. Revenue stamp of the first issue, on silk fibre paper, \$5.10 : Doolittle match stamp, 1c., blue, \$4.25 : Vaillant's . Roman Consular Coins," 2 vols., \$2.63; New Haven stamp, 1845, 5c. red, \$4.00; collection of shells, 300 pcs... \$12.50; case No. 1. of birds eggs, 435 pes., \$21.00: case No. 2. of birds eggs. 300 pes., \$19.00; case No 3, of birds eggs, 400 pes., \$20.00; Ostrich's egg, \$2.70; Emu's egg, \$4.50; broadsword, U.S.A., \$2.63. Baton Rouge local, 5c. red and green, \$26.00; 50e. note. Lincoln, on water marked fibre paper, \$1.75; Danish double Rigsdaler, 1863, \$2.15; ferry token of the Halifax Steamboat Co., \$1.00; gold Roman Solidus, \$4.; double crown of Tyrol. \$2.50; masonic medal of N. Y. Temple dedication, \$1.75. The entire sale netted \$1005.

Exchange Department.

Notice. -- Exchanges will be inserted in this department fee of charge for subscribers only. We reserve the right to reject any exchange.

Special Notice. - Parties answering exchanges and advertisements which have been seen in this magazinc will confer a favor on all concerned by mentioning the A. N.

Parties having the brass-encased postage stamps used in 1862; or scarce match, medicine, or other U. S. revenues, can by sending them to me with stamp for return postage, receive ancient or modern coins, postage or revenue stamps to their full value in exchange. D. Proskey, 448 River street, Paterson, N. J.

A lot of stump papers, minerals, fossils and curios, for coins of all kinds. Collectors send list of duplicates to W. H. Taylor, North Wales, Pa.

Many common, and a few rarities in Canadian coins, which I wish to exchange for U. S. coins not in my collection. Wanted, the first eight numbers of "The Keystone Philatelic Gazette." M. A. MacDonald, Eldon, P. E. I., Canada,

U. S. and foreign coppers for the same, send lists of duplicates and wants. David Harlowe, 1010 Clybourn street, Milwaukee, Wis.

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COIN DEALERS

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